AMENDEMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 9. A complete listing of the claims, including their current status, is set forth below.

1-8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Currently amended)** A method for screening **for a bioactive agent**, comprising:

contacting a hematopoietic cell with a candidate agent in vitro, said hematopoietic cell comprising a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso protein, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid will hybridize under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement; and

assessing apoptosis of said hematopoietic cell.

10. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 9, wherein said method comprises contacting a plurality of hematopoietic cells with a library of candidate bioactive agents, wherein said hematopoietic cells comprise a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a Toso protein, wherein said recombinant nucleic acid will hybridize under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement.

11. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 9, wherein said assessing comprises adding a labeling agent for detection of apoptotic cells.

12. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 11, wherein said assessing comprises separating apoptotic cells from non-apoptotic cells.

13. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 11, wherein said labeling agent is annexin.

14. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 12, wherein said separating is by FACS.

15. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 31, wherein said apoptotic agent is selected from the group consisting of an anti-Fas antibody, TNF-α, FADD, cycloheximide, PMA, ionomycin and chemotherapeutic agents.

16. **(Previously presented)** A method of modulating apoptosis in a cell in vitro comprising:

administering to said cell an exogenous compound that binds to a Toso protein of said cell, wherein said Toso protein is encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the nucleic acid sequence depicted in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or its complement,

wherein said binding of the compound to the Toso protein modulates apoptosis in said cell.

17. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein reduces or eliminates the biological activity of said Toso protein.

18. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 16, wherein the binding of said exogenous compound to said Toso protein increases the biological activity of said Toso protein.

19-25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 9, wherein the hematopoietic cell is a lymphocyte.

27. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the lymphocyte is a B lymphocyte.

28. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the lymphocyte is a T lymphocyte.

29. **(Previously presented)** The method according to claim 26, wherein the hematopoietic cell is a lymphoid cell.

30. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 9, wherein the Toso protein is a Toso cell surface receptor.

31. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 30, further comprising contacting said hematopoietic cell with an agent that induces apoptosis.